(c) the steps taken to prevent any further increase in coffee prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The coffee price realised is a function of demand and supply. Moreover, the domestic prices of coffee have started declining and at present these are mostly at par with the international prices.

Import of wheat

2195. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of wheat initially proposed to be imported with details of exporting countries;

(b) the quantity that has been received so far with names of countries who exported this wheat;

(c) whether Government have a comfortable stock of procured and imported wheat;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to change its decision for import of the balance quantity of wheat; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Govt. had initially authorised import of upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97. Against this, the State Trading Corporation of India contracted for import of a total quantity of 17.51 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia, Canada and Argentina. The entire quantity of 17.51 lakh tonnes has already reached India by May, 1997.

(c) to (e) The wheat stocks in the Central Pool as on 1-7-97 is estimated at 10.97 million tonnes as against 13.10 million tonnes required to be maintained as per the Buffer Stocking Norms. Govt. has, after considering the relevant factors authorised import of an additional quantity of upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1997-98, of which the STC has finalised contract for import of 1 million tonnes in the first instance. Government costantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool with reference to production of foodgrains in the country, the procurement trend, internal availability of foodgrains, requirement for Public Distribution System (PDS), foreign exchange resources, price trend in the national and International markets etc. and decision regarding import or otherwise of the balance quantity will be taken at the appropriate time depending upon the situation.

Surplus stock of Tabacco in the West and East Godavari Districts

2196. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has made any survey of surplus stocks of tobacco in West and East Godavari Districts in the first week of June, 1997;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to assist farmers by lifting such tobacco stocks; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some of the steps taken by the Tobacco Board to assist tobacco farmers include:—

(i) Conducting auctions to ensure accurate weighment, classification and competitive prices;

(ii) Negotiating with tobacco trade for fixation of Mininmum Guaranteed Price for Flue Curred Virginia To-